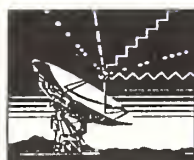


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Broadcasters Letter

United States Department of Agriculture • Office of Communications • Washington, DC 20250-1300

Letter No. 2714

May 19, 1995

TWO GOALS BEHIND FARM BILL PROPOSALS -- Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman unveiled the Department of Agriculture's stand on the 1995 farm bill. He says the two goals for the legislation that will drive farm programs for the next five years is empowering U.S. agriculture and sustaining rural America. Combining the needs of the American farmer, with the safety of American consumers is the balance they are striving for, says Glickman. He says they will work to "sustain the farm and food programs that have produced history's most abundant, most affordable and most wholesome food supply." More farm program flexibility, limiting farm payments to individuals who earn less than \$100,000 a year in off-farm income, opening and expanding export markets and supporting research are among his goals. **Contact: Jim Petterson (202) 720-4623.**

USDA TAKES ACTION ON UNFAIR TRADE -- A new team whose mission is to identify and respond to countries seeking unfair trade advantages over the United States is in place at USDA. Trade distorting sanitary and phytosanitary measures are being used more and more by countries to restrict imports, says Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman. Lost trade estimates are placed at \$700 million annually as U.S. exporters face measures which are not scientifically justified. That prompted forming the action team which includes members of the Foreign Agricultural Service, the Agricultural Research Service, the Food Safety and Inspection Service and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. **Contact: Wayne Baggett (202) 720-2032.**

RECORDKEEPING REGULATIONS DELAYED -- A regulation requiring changes in how farmers keep track of pesticides was supposed to go into effect on May 11, 1995. That date has now been moved to August 1 to allow more time for people to adjust to the changes. Lon Hatamiya, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, says the busy planting season doesn't give farmers enough time to learn the new requirements. Amendments to the pesticide recordkeeping regulations include reducing to 14 days the time farmers have to write down when a restricted use pesticide is used, changing how spot application locations are recorded, and making it easier to release records for medical records. **Contact: Connie Crunkleton (202) 720-8998.**

WETLANDS RESERVE PROGRAM SIGN-UP -- For the first time, a nationwide sign-up for the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) is set to begin. Running from May 30 through June 30, almost 120,000 acres are expected to be enrolled in the \$92 million program. The owner will not be paid more than the value of the land, but hunting, fishing and grazing rights are usually allowed. Protecting and restoring wetland areas to furnish habitat for wildlife, purifying water and absorbing flood waters are the main goals of the WRP. For more information, or to sign up for the Wetlands Reserve Program, contact the local office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service. **Contact: Diana Morse (202) 720-4772.**

HIGHER FEES FOR TOBACCO INSPECTION PROPOSED -- In order to maintain an adequate operating reserve and provide the level of services needed, the U.S. Department of Agriculture is proposing an increase in the fee for mandatory inspection of tobacco. Sold at designated auction markets, each hundred pounds of tobacco is inspected for the current fee of 70 cents. That fee would increase to 83 cents per hundred pounds if the proposal is approved. To comment, write the Director of AMS, USDA Tobacco Division, P.O. Box 96456, Room 502 Annex, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456. **Contact: Alicia L. Ford (202) 720-8998.**

FINAL COTTON DEFICIENCY PAYMENT RATE -- Producers of extra-long-staple cotton who participated in the 1994 price support and production adjustment programs could receive deficiency payments. The final rate is set at 1.3 cents a pound, which means producers who received the advance payment of 8.485 cents will have to refund 7.185 cents per pound to the Commodity Credit Corporation. If producers need help repaying that amount by the end of the marketing year (July 31, 1995), they can contact their local Consolidated Farm Service Agency office. **Contact: Bruce Merkle (202) 720-8206.**

NEW IMPORT REQUIREMENTS FOR SHEEP AND GOATS? A continuing threat from scrapie is the reason USDA officials are proposing a change in the requirements for importing sheep and goats. Scrapie is a progressively degenerative disease of the nervous system that can take 42 months to incubate. Under the new regulations, sheep and goats originating in countries not declared free of scrapie would have to be placed in a U.S. flock or herd that participates in a Scrapie Flock Certification Program. That is an industry program certifying flock and herds as "scrapie-free" after five years of surveillance. Australia, New Zealand and Canada are the only countries that would be exempt from this requirement. To comment on the proposal, send an original and three copies to: APHIS Policy and Program Development, Regulatory Analysis, 4700 River Road, Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737. **Contact: Kendra Pratt (301) 734-6573.**

SPAIN IS FREE -- Spain has been declared free of swine vesicular disease. That relieves some prohibitions and restrictions on imported swine and pork products. But that country is now added to the list of countries subject to restrictions on pork and pork products imported into the U.S. because African swine fever still exists in Spain. These changes become effective May 26, 1995. **Contact: Kathy Bonner (301) 734-8563.**

BETTER FRUIT FROM HEALTHIER TREES -- Almost all fruit producers now spray their apple and pear trees with a spray yielding fruit higher in calcium and trees with less disease, thanks to USDA scientists. The cost-efficient technique of spraying the trees with calcium chloride and calcium nitrate was developed by USDA's Agricultural Research Service scientists in Wenatchee, Washington. On Delicious and Golden Delicious apples, the sprays reduced the incidence of bitter pit, scald and internal breakdown, three disorders that render some apples unmarketable. Spraying pear trees increased yields by 13 percent and reduced the incidence of cork spot, which reduces flavor intensity. The disorders are caused by low fruit calcium that develops after excessively warm or cold temperatures, irrigation, dormant pruning or nitrogen fertilization. More careful application of fertilizer and water, and summer pruning can reduce some of the damage, but the calcium sprays have had a dramatic impact. Until the field trials, pear growers were reluctant to spray trees with calcium, fearing it would cause blemishes on the more sensitive pears. Several different formulations of calcium chloride and calcium nitrate are available, with specific label recommendations for various fruit crops. **Contact: Stephen R. Drake (509) 664-2280.**

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1981 -- How farmers deal with all the environmental rules they are faced with is the subject of this week's documentary. Gary Crawford presents the opinions of experts trying to learn what causes farmers to resist some rules and embrace others. **(Weekly 5:00 documentary feature).**

CONSUMER TIME #1458 -- How to manage stress in the 1990's. Therapeutic horse riding for the physically challenged. Lower meat prices at the grocery store. Dangerous mower blades. Helping senior citizens work. **(Weekly consumer features).**

AGRITAPE FEATURES #1970 -- Export outlook for cattle. Cattle outlook calls for higher production and consumption, but lower prices. USDA moves to collect on defaulted loans. Weather dampens spring planting plans. More chickens, lower prices. **(Weekly agriculture features).**

UPCOMING ON USDA'S RADIO NEWSLINE -- Monday, May 29, HOLIDAY. Tuesday, May 30, weekly weather and crops. Wednesday, May 31, agricultural exports; tobacco world markets and trade. Thursday, June 1, world horticultural trade; sugar markets and trade. Tuesday, June 6, weekly weather and crops. Friday, June 9, world supply and demand for cotton. **These are the USDA reports we know about in advance. Our newslines carries many stories every day which are not listed in this lineup.**

USDA RADIO NEWSLINES (202) 488-8358 or (202) 720-8359
COMREX ENCODED (202) 720-2545
Material changed at 5 p.m. ET each working day.

FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

FEATURES -- Eric Parsons reports on Conservation Reserve Program buy-outs. Patrick O'Leary reports on USDA research on using a natural fungus to control white flies.

ACTUALITIES -- USDA Acting Under Secretary for Rural Economic and Community Development Michael Dunn on rural development proposals before Congress.

UPCOMING FEATURES -- USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service celebrates 60 years of protecting soil and water.

SATELLITE COORDINATES FOR TV NEWSFEEDS:

Thursday, 3:45 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, Telstar 302, C-band, Channel 6 (Transponder 3H), audio 6.2 and 6.8, downlink frequency 3820 MHz. Monday, 11:00-11:15 a.m. ET, Galaxy 4, Channel 12 (C-band), audio 6.2 and 6.8, downlink frequency 3940 MHz.

Comments and suggestions are welcome regarding USDA broadcast services. Call Larry A. Quinn at (202)720-6072 or 1618-S, USDA, Washington, D.C. 202050-1300.

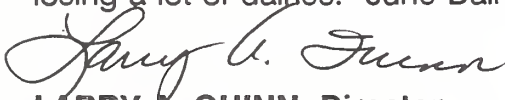
OFF MIKE

HEADING FOR THE HILLS...of Tennessee will be **Norton Strommen**, USDA's chief meteorologist who has been a regular spokesman on USDA radio and TV programs for several years. Norton will retire June 2 with 40 years of federal service, serving at USDA since 1980. Although he has spent most of his time forecasting weather, he's been involved in researching, developing and implementing new applications for weather data. Results of this work at USDA have yielded a forecasting model used around the country. Broadcasters who would like to contribute to an audio tribute we're planning for Norton should call **Gary Crawford** at **202-720-7068** by May 31.

PLANTING DELAYS CONTINUE...in Iowa and only one-third of the state's corn is planted, reports **Dennis Morrice** (KICD, Spencer, IA). Many areas are more than two weeks behind and farmers are remembering the weather effects of 1993. Few have finished crop planting. Dennis reminds that county fair season is rapidly approaching. He usually covers 14 local fairs from July 4 to late September.

MORE SUNFLOWERS...will likely replace canola in North Dakota fields this year because wet weather is causing farmers to choose alternative crops that can be planted later. **Al Gustin** (KFYR, Bismarck, ND) says he's been offering management suggestions to help farmers cope with wet conditions. Also, he's been talking with farmers about recent USDA announcements concerning the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Al is a farmer, too, but at the moment he has more time for radio because of the lack of sunshine.

RAISED ON A DAIRY FARM...and selected as Minnesota's 1989 State Dairy Princess are two credentials that equip **Katie Scott** (KJJK, Fergus Falls, MN) to discuss dairy prices and concerns of local farmers about whether they'll be able to pass on their farms to the next generation. Katie's home county is the second largest dairy producer in her state, but she says they are losing a lot of dairies. June Dairy Month will get a lot of attention at her station.



LARRY A. QUINN, Director
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